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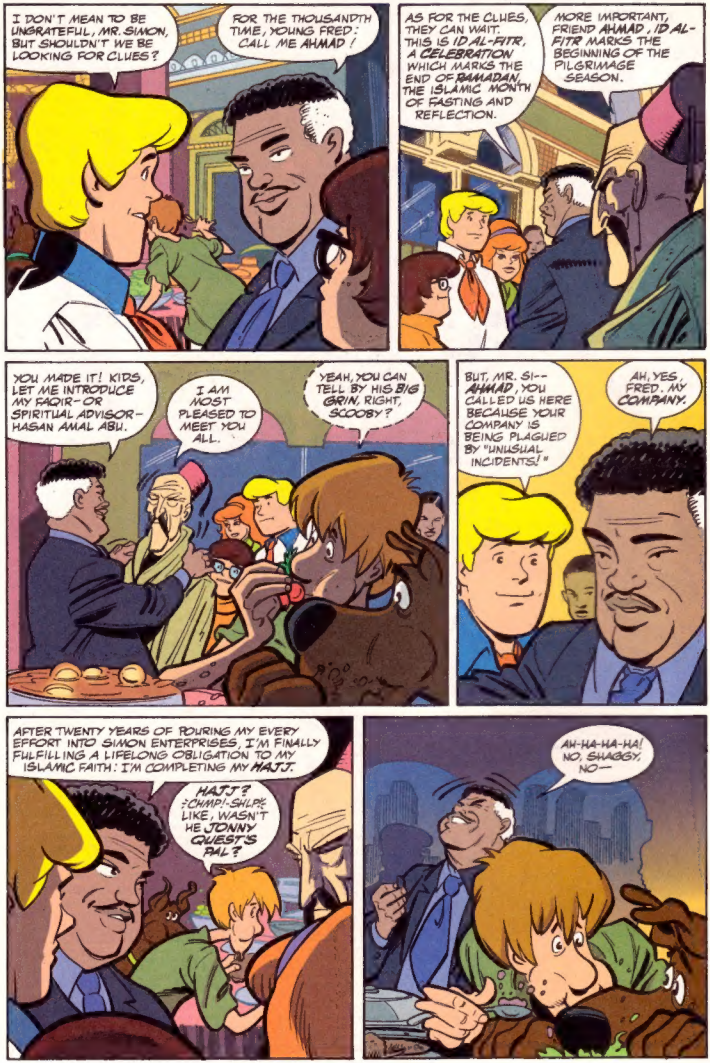
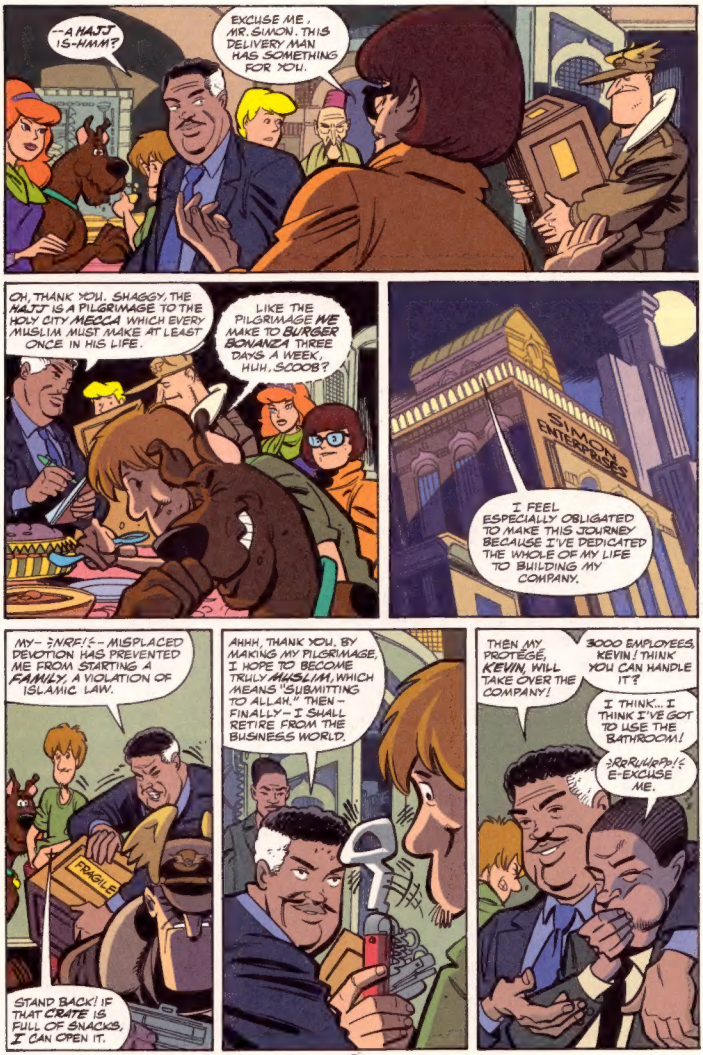

I DON'T MEAN TO BE UNGRATEFUL, MR. SIMON, BUT SHOULDN'T WE BE LOOKING FOR CLUES?
FOR THE THOUSANDTH TIME, YOUNG FRED: CALL ME AHMAD!
AS FOR THE CLUES, THEY CAN WAIT. THIS IS ID AL-FITR, A CELEBRATION WHICH MARKS THE END OF RAMADAN, THE ISLAMIC MONTH OF FASTING AND REFLECTION.
MORE IMPORTANT, FRIEND AHMAD, ID AL-FITR MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE PILGRIMAGE SEASON.
YOU MADE IT! KIDS, LET ME INTRODUCE MY FAQIR-OR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR-HASAN AMAL ABU.
I AM MOST PLEASED TO MEET YOU ALL.
YEAH, YOU CAN TELL BY HIS BIG GRIN, RIGHT, SCOOBY?
BUT, MR. SI-- AHMAD, YOU CALLED US HERE BECAUSE YOUR COMPANY IS BEING PLAGUED BY "UNUSUAL INCIDENTS!"
AH, YES, FRED. MY COMPANY.
AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF POURING MY EVERY EFFORT INTO SIMON ENTERPRISES, I'M FINALLY FULFILLING A LIFELONG OBLIGATION TO MY ISLAMIC FAITH: I'M COMPLETING MY HAJJ.
HAJJ? CHAMP!-SHIP, LIKE, WASN'T HE JONNY QUEST'S PAL?
AH-HA-HA-HA! NO, SHAGGY, NO—


--A HAJJ IS--HMM?
EXCUSE ME, MR. SIMON. THIS DELIVERY MAN HAS SOMETHING FOR YOU.
OH, THANK YOU, SHAGGY. THE HAJJ IS A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY CITY MECCA WHICH EVERY MUSLIM MUST MAKE AT LEAST ONCE IN HIS LIFE.
LIKE THE PILGRIMAGE WE MAKE TO BURGER BONANZA THREE DAYS A WEEK, HUH, SCOOB?
SIMON ENTERPRISES
I FEEL ESPECIALLY OBLIGATED TO MAKE THIS JOURNEY BECAUSE I'VE DEDICATED THE WHOLE OF MY LIFE TO BUILDING MY COMPANY.
MY- ;NRF!;- MISPLACED DEVOTION HAS PREVENTED ME FROM STARTING A FAMILY, A VIOLATION OF ISLAMIC LAW.
FRAGILE
STAND BACK! IF THAT CRATE IS FULL OF SNACKS, I CAN OPEN IT.
AHHH, THANK YOU. BY MAKING MY PILGRIMAGE, I HOPE TO BECOME TRULY MUSLIM, WHICH MEANS "SUBMITTING TO ALLAH." THEN - FINALLY - I SHALL RETIRE FROM THE BUSINESS WORLD.
THEN MY PROTÉGÉ, KEVIN, WILL TAKE OVER THE COMPANY!
3000 EMPLOYEES, KEVIN! THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
I THINK... I THINK I'VE GOT TO USE THE BATHROOM!
;RRRUWRP!; E-EXCUSE ME.

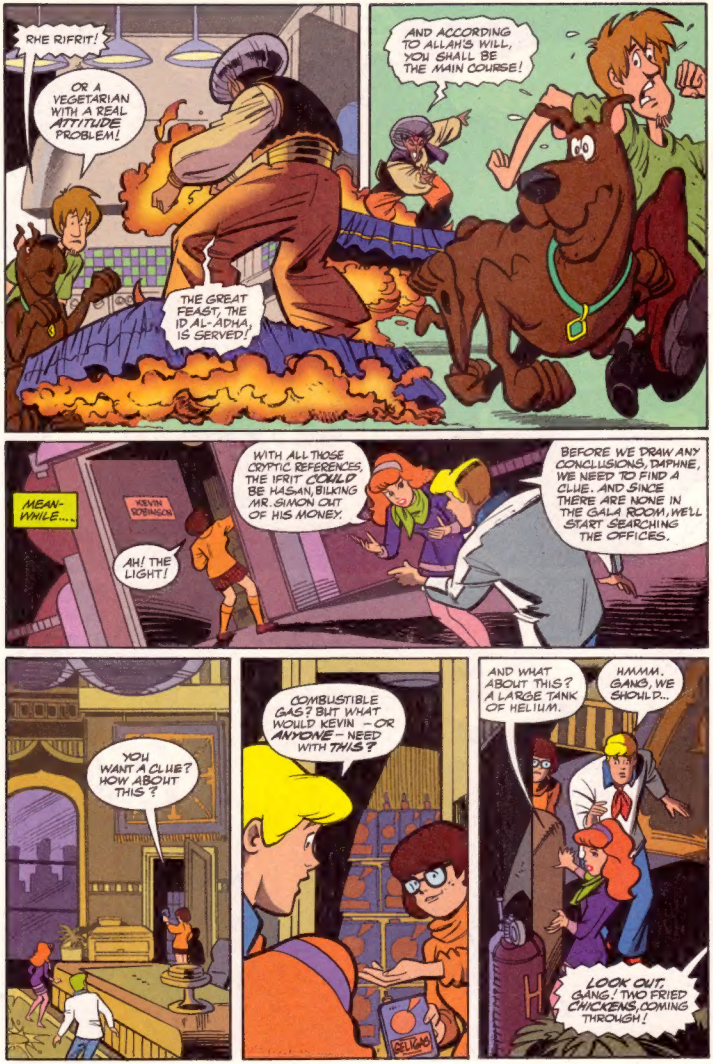
HMM! DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE RUSHING KEVIN – IN ORDER TO COMPLETE YOUR HAJJ, MISTER SIMON?
NONSENSE!
KEVIN IS BETTER PREPARED THAN HE REALIZES! I'M DOING HIM A FAVOR BY NUDGING HIM FROM THE PROVERBIAL NEST! YOU'LL SEE!
HE'LL SEE!
TRIUMPHSVILLE! I GOT IT!
POKP!
PFEW!
LIKE, WHAT'S IN THE CRATE, NATE?
HMMM... IT'S AS DRY AS THE EMPTY QUARTER, WHATEVER IT IS.
SAND! AND LODGED WITHIN... A BOTTLE! RATHER A FILTHY BOTTLE. I'LL RUB SOME OF THIS DIRT AWAY.
"RUB?" "BOTTLE?" WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT TUNE BEFORE?
RUB-RUB
!GAK!
LIKE
!KE!-KE!
ZOINKS!
FWOOMSH

L-LOOK!
AHMAD SIMON! YOU HAVE DISTURBED MY EONS-LONG SLUMBER!
FIRST INVOKED BY LORD SULEIMAN, THEN IMPRISONED BY KING SOLOMON, I—THE IFRIT OF THE BOTTLE—AM SUMMONED TO DUTY!
IN THE BOTTLE...?
BAH! MUST I BE COMMANDED BY YOU WHO FOLLOWS HIS LIFE-PATH NOWHERE BUT TO THE SOUKH, THE COMMON MARKETPLACE?
I AM DISGRACED!
UH! GRAB HIM, SHAGGY!
YEAH, RIGHT!
YOU SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE A SIMILAR MOCKERY OF THE KABA, THE HOUSE OF GOD WITHIN THE HOLY CITY!

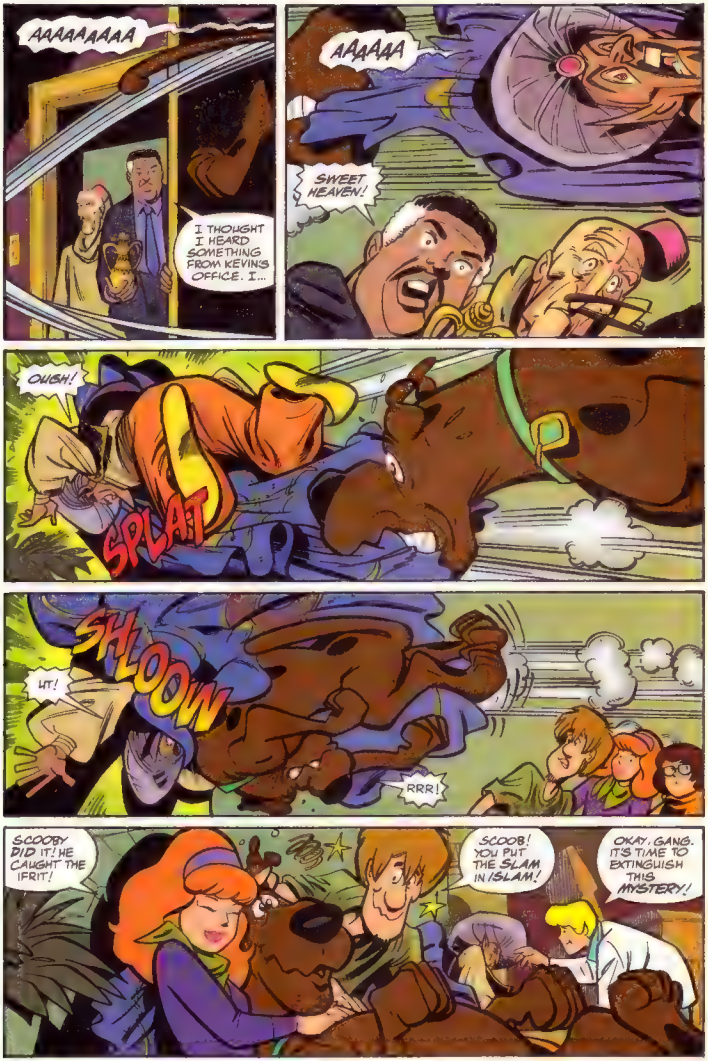
I AM THE IFRIT, FIERY DEFENDER OF THE FAITHFUL. AND YOUR FEET MUST NEVER REACH THE HOLY CITY.
HEED MY WORDS, INFIDEL--
--OR YOUR PRECIOUS SIMON ENTERPRISES--
SAYYY.. WHERE'S HASAN?
---SHALL BURN AWAY INTO ASHES AND SAND!
IF YOU VENTURE TOWARD MECCA, AHMAD SIMON, I SHALL LEAVE YOU THE PASHM OF A MERE ASH HEAP!
LIKE, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND"?
HA-HA-HA-HAAAA!

MR. SI... AHMAD, WE'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK IMMEDIATELY!
I'LL SAY! DO YOU HAVE ANY MARSHMALLOWS? LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF THIS BLAZIN' BANQUET!
WORK? BANQUET?
MARSHMALLOWS?
WELL, LOOK WHO JUST HAPPENED TO SNEAK BACK IN--HASAN AMAL ABU!
Y-YES, I WAS... I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOUNG KEVIN, WHO LOOKED ILL. ALLAH DID NOT WILL SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR, HOWEVER.
HOW CONVENIENT!
FAQIR! DID YOU SEE? WE WERE ASSAILED BY AN IFRIT... A GENIE!
THERE IS A VERY OLD STORY ABOUT A FISHERMAN AND A GENIE, FRIEND AHMAD.
WITHIN HIS NETS, A FISHERMAN FOUND A BOTTLE, FROM WHICH HE RELEASED A GENIE WHO WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THE MAN HAD HE NOT TRICKED THE EVIL SPIRIT BACK INTO THE BOTTLE.
THE MORAL OF THE STORY--"MAN CAN USE ONLY WHAT HE HAS LEARNED TO USE."
BUT... I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW DOES THAT PARABLE APPLY HERE?
THE MOST VALUABLE LESSONS, FAITHFUL AHMAD, ARE THOSE WE LEARN FOR OURSELVES.

OKAY, GANG, LET'S SPLIT UP!
DAPHNE, VELMA, AND I WILL SEARCH THE IMMEDIATE AREA FOR CLUES.
SHAGGY, YOU AND SCOOBY SEARCH THE PERIMETER OF THE BUILDING FOR ANY SIGN OF THE IFRIT.
R-R-RIFRIT?
GOOD PLAN, FRED! THAT'S THE COOLEST!
RHE RHOOLEST?
TRUST ME, EFFENDI.
SOON...
FRED DIDN'T SAY WE COULDN'T MAKE A LITTLE KARMA-REPLENISHIN' DETOUR!
CURRY, CURRY, WHERE'S THE... AH-HA!
DIG THIS! SHAGGY KABOBS! ANCHOVIES, APRICOTS, GRAPES, AND - FINALLY - THE MARSHMALLOWS.
TROUBLE IS, WHERE DO WE COOK 'EM?
ZOINKS!
WOOMSH!


RHE RIFRIT!
OR A VEGETARIAN WITH A REAL ATTITUDE PROBLEM!
THE GREAT FEAST, THE ID AL-ADHA, IS SERVED!
AND ACCORDING TO ALLAH'S WILL, YOU SHALL BE THE MAIN COURSE!
MEAN-WHILE...
KEVIN ROBINSON
AH! THE LIGHT!
WITH ALL THOSE CRYPTIC REFERENCES, THE IFRIT COULD BE HASAN, BILKING MR. SIMON OUT OF HIS MONEY.
BEFORE WE DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS, DAPHNE, WE NEED TO FIND A CLUE. AND SINCE THERE ARE NONE IN THE GALA ROOM, WE'LL START SEARCHING THE OFFICES.
YOU WANT A CLUE? HOW ABOUT THIS?
COMBUSTIBLE GAS? BUT WHAT WOULD KEVIN – OR ANYONE – NEED WITH THIS?
BELKNAP
AND WHAT ABOUT THIS? A LARGE TANK OF HELIUM.
HMMM. GANG, WE SHOULD...
LOOK OUT, GANG! TWO FRIED CHICKENS, COMING THROUGH!

THE IFRIT!
I HAVE COME TO IMMOLATE ALL KAFIRS!
JUST AS IBRIHIM OFFERED UP ISMAIL, SO SHALL I...
QUICK! GRAB HIM!
EH?
YRR!
NRR!
STOP THAT, YOU MANGY MUTT, OR YOU'LL...
FSH
FHSP
FHSPAK!
WwAaAaAaAaAa
FHSP
THE CARPET! THE MAGIC CARPET IS-IS... DEFLATING!

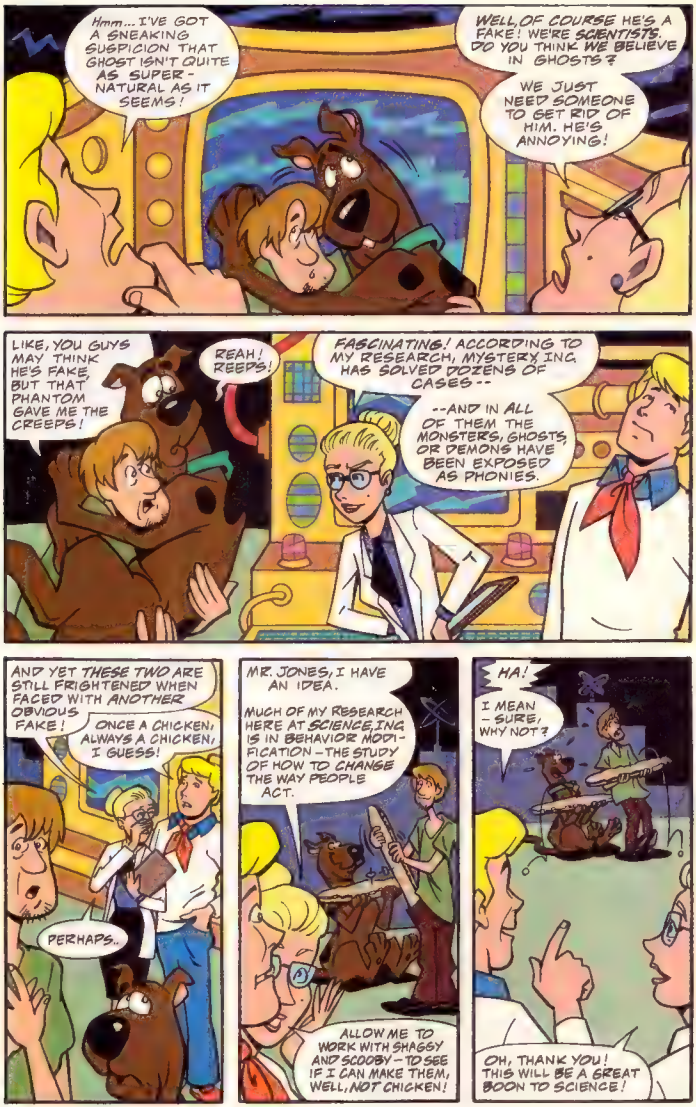

AAAAAAAAA
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING FROM KEVIN'S OFFICE. I...
AAAAAA
SWEET HEAVEN!
OUSH!
SPLAT
SHLOOM
UT!
RRR!
SCOOBY DID IT! HE CAUGHT THE IFRIT!
SCOOB! YOU PUT THE SLAM IN ISLAM!
OKAY, GANG. IT'S TIME TO EXTINGUISH THIS MYSTERY!

LET'S START BY FINDING OUT WHO THE IFRIT REALLY IS!
KEVIN ROBINSON!
BUT... THOSE EH-SHOOTING FLAMES... THE FLYING CARPET. H-HOW--?
KEVIN ENGINEERED FLAME-THROWERS USING DANGEROUS CHEMICALS--
--WHICH HE STOCKED SECRETLY IN HIS OFFICE.
AS FOR THE "FLYING CARPET"--
--IT'S JUST A SHAG-COVERED, HELIUM-FILLED MATTRESS WITH A SMALL DIRIGIBLE-STYLE MOTOR THAT WAS OPERATED WITH THESE HIDDEN FOOT PEDALS.
KEVIN ENTERED THE GALA ROOM UNDER THE COVER OF THE DUST WHICH HE PACKED INTO THE CRATE WITH THE BOTTLE.
IT'S ALL TRUE. I... I WAS COMING BACK TO MY OFFICE TO HIDE THOSE CLUES WHEN I RAN INTO THAT BEATNIK KID AND HIS DOG IN THE KITCHEN.
OH, "THE KITCHEN," HUH?
AH, YEAH, WELL...
BUT... BUT KEVIN--
--WHY?!

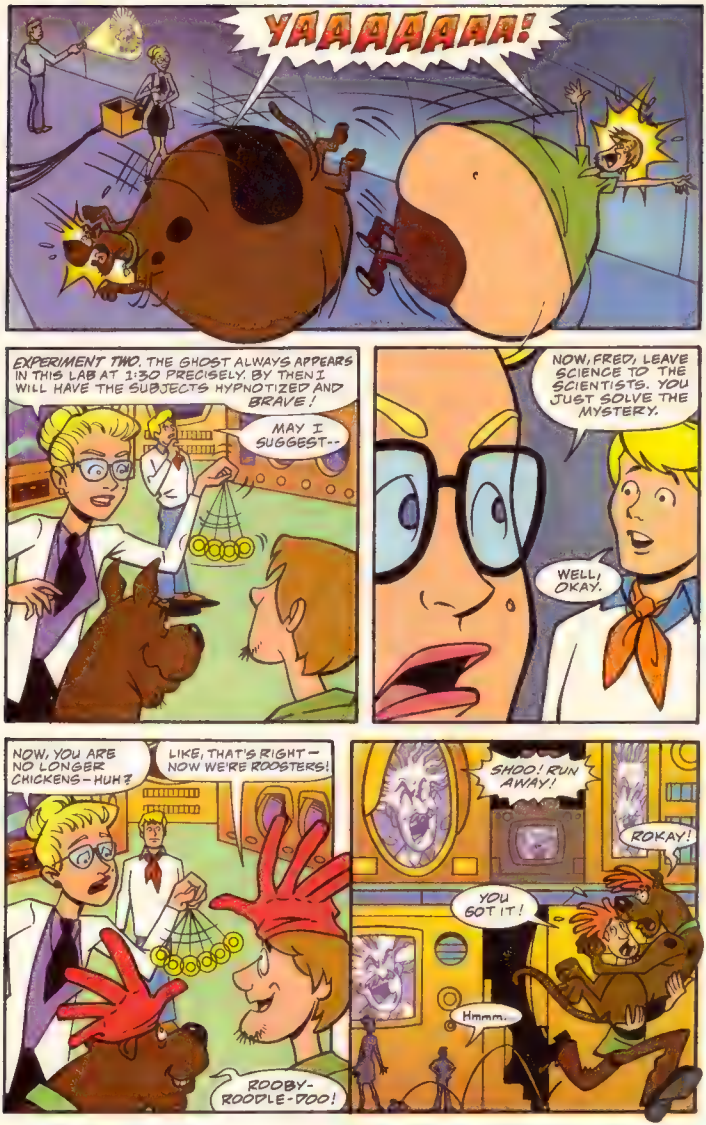
I... I'M NOT READY TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY YET. I... I FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T LEAVE US IF YOU THOUGHT THE COMPANY WOULD BE DESTROYED. I... WE --
--WE NEED YOU, MR SIMON
I'M SORRY
I UNDERSTAND THE PARABLE OF THE FISHERMAN NOW, FAQIR.
"MAN CAN USE ONLY WHAT HE HAS LEARNED TO USE."
KEVIN CAN'T TAKE OVER AS PRESIDENT OF SIMON ENTERPRISES BECAUSE HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO RUN IT.
AND I NEEDN'T FRET OVER STARTING A FAMILY, BECAUSE I ALREADY HAVE ONE-SIMON ENTERPRISES ITSELF

I WAS LOOKING FOR AN EASY ESCAPE FROM THE PRESSURES OF THE BUSINESS WORLD. BUT THERE ARE NO QUICK FIXES.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GENIE IN A BOTTLE!
AS FOR THE "SPIRIT"... I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WAS A PHONY! ISLAM MEANS "SURRENDERING TO GOD'S LAW." ISLAM IS ABOUT LOVE AND DEVOTION, NOT THREATS AND TERROR.
COME. THIS REVELATION CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION!
BUT.. BUT AREN'T YOU GOING TO PRESS CHARGES?
AGAINST A MEMBER OF MY OWN FAMILY? NEVER!
OH, I'M STILL GOING ON THE HAJJ. BUT WHEN I'M DONE, I'LL COME BACK.
TO YOU. TO MY FAMILY.
WHEW!? I'VE ONLY GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE LESSON TODAY. C'MON, GANG!
ER - WHAT LESSON WOULD THAT BE, YOUNG SHAGGY?
"HOW TO MAKE A SHAGGY KABOB!"
HA-HA-HA!
THE END

WELCOME TO SCIENCE, INC. WHERE TOMORROW WAS MADE YESTERDAY.
DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
LIKE, WE'RE WITH MYSTERY, INC.
SCIENCE INC
BREAK TIMES 11 AM, 1:30 2:30, 4:30
TOO SLOW, SIR. I HAVE TO ANSWER PHONES NOW. SO SHOO! HELLO, SCIENCE, INC.!
THE FUTURE IS COMING!
SHAGGY! SCOOBY! IN HERE!
BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION
CHRIS DUFFY WRITING
BILL ALGER PENCILLING
BOB SMITH INKING
PHIL FELIX LETTERING
TRISHA MULVIHILL COLORING
BRONWYN TAGGART EDITING
DIG THIS LOONY LAB!
THANKS FOR JOINING US, BOYS. I'M DR. VON BROWN. I SEE YOU'RE ENJOYING SCIENCE INC'S MAIN LAB.
ROOBY ROO!
BUT RE-MEMBER--
--YOU'RE HERE TO DO A JOB!
AH! THE PHANTOM PHYSICIST! RIGHT ON TIME! STRIKES EVERY DAY AT 11 A.M.!
I'M THE GHOST OF ARNOLD EINSVEIN! LEAVE THIS PLACE! I'M HAUNTING IT! GO ON! SHOO!


Hmm... I'VE GOT A SNEAKING SUSPICION THAT GHOST ISN'T QUITE AS SUPER-NATURAL AS IT SEEMS!
WELL, OF COURSE HE'S A FAKE! WE'RE SCIENTISTS. DO YOU THINK WE BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?
WE JUST NEED SOMEONE TO GET RID OF HIM. HE'S ANNOYING!
LIKE, YOU GUYS MAY THINK HE'S FAKE, BUT THAT PHANTOM GAVE ME THE CREEPS!
REAH! REEDS!
FASCINATING! ACCORDING TO MY RESEARCH, MYSTERY INC. HAS SOLVED DOZENS OF CASES--
--AND IN ALL OF THEM THE MONSTERS, GHOSTS, OR DEMONS HAVE BEEN EXPOSED AS PHONIES.
AND YET THESE TWO ARE STILL FRIGHTENED WHEN FACED WITH ANOTHER OBVIOUS FAKE!
ONCE A CHICKEN, ALWAYS A CHICKEN, I GUESS!
PERHAPS.
MR. JONES, I HAVE AN IDEA.
MUCH OF MY RESEARCH HERE AT SCIENCE, INC. IS IN BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION - THE STUDY OF HOW TO CHANGE THE WAY PEOPLE ACT.
ALLOW ME TO WORK WITH SHAGGY AND SCOOBY - TO SEE IF I CAN MAKE THEM, WELL, NOT CHICKEN!
HA!
I MEAN - SURE, WHY NOT?
OH, THANK YOU! THIS WILL BE A GREAT BOON TO SCIENCE!

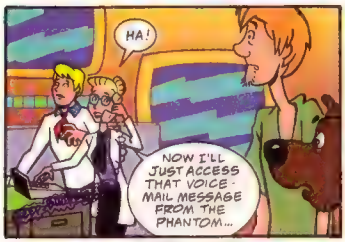
EXPERIMENT ONE. SUBJECTS WILL BE REWARDED WITH TASTY HAMBURGERS EACH TIME THEY SHOW THE SLIGHTEST INDICATION OF NON-COWARDLY BEHAVIOR WHILE FRED SEARCHES THE ACCESS TUNNELS.
LIKE, I'M GLAD YOU TAGGED ALONG, LADY.
Hmm... WHAT'S THIS UP HERE?
REAH! =SLURP=
THESE COMPUTER CABLES HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH!
GOOD!
IS THAT ALL? LIKE, BIG DEAL.
RIG REAL!
YOU WEREN'T FRIGHTENED OF THE CABLES! YOU GET A REWARD!
SAY!
THIS WALL DOESN'T SCARE US. =GULP!=
ROOBY-ROO! =GULP=
EXCELLENT PROGRESS!
THIS PIECE OF DUST DOESN'T SCARE US. =GULP=
MY BELLY BUTTON DOESN'T SCARE US. =GULP=
AND THESE TASTY BURGERS DON'T SCARE US. =GULP= RIGHT, SCOOB?
INTERESTING. THE SUBJECTS ARE SO ROTUND, THEY COULDN'T FLEE IN TERROR EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO.
BEWARE!
WANNA BET?

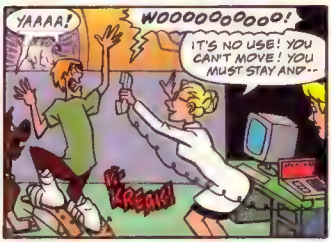

YAAAAAAA!
EXPERIMENT TWO. THE GHOST ALWAYS APPEARS IN THIS LAB AT 1:30 PRECISELY. BY THEN I WILL HAVE THE SUBJECTS HYPNOTIZED AND BRAVE!
MAY I SUGGEST--
NOW, FRED, LEAVE SCIENCE TO THE SCIENTISTS. YOU JUST SOLVE THE MYSTERY.
WELL, OKAY.
NOW, YOU ARE NO LONGER CHICKENS - HUH?
LIKE, THAT'S RIGHT - NOW WE'RE ROOSTERS!
ROOBY-ROODLE-DOO!
SHOO! RUN AWAY!
ROKAY!
YOU GOT IT!
Hmmm.

SO, YOU SAY EVERY DAY AT 2:30 THE PHANTOM PHYSICIST'S VOICE HAUNTS THIS CORNER OF THE LAB?
YES, YES.
EXPERIMENT THREE. AVERSION TRAINING. SUBJECTS TYPICALLY SEEK SOLACE BY JUMPING INTO EACH OTHER'S ARMS.
AND THESE ELECTRO-BANDS WILL ADMINISTER A PAINFUL SHOCK TO BOTH PARTIES WHENEVER ONE CATCHES THE OTHER.
EVENTUALLY, BOTH SUBJECTS WILL LEARN TO STAND THEIR GROUND TO AVOID THE SHOCKS.
IT'S THE MOST BASIC FORM OF CONDITIONING. ANYTHING WITH A BRAIN BIGGER THAN A PEA KNOWS TO AVOID PAIN!
BEGONE, FOOLISH MORTALS!
ZOINKS!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
BOO!
RIKES!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
ARRR!
ZOINKS!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
GROWL!
RIKES!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
SHOO!
ZOINKS!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
BOO!
RIKES!
YOWP!
ZZZZAT!
ZOINKS! YOWP! ZOINKS! YOWP! ZOINKS!
ZZZZAT! ZZZZAT!
RIKES! YOWP! RIKES! YOWP! RIKES!
THEN AGAIN...

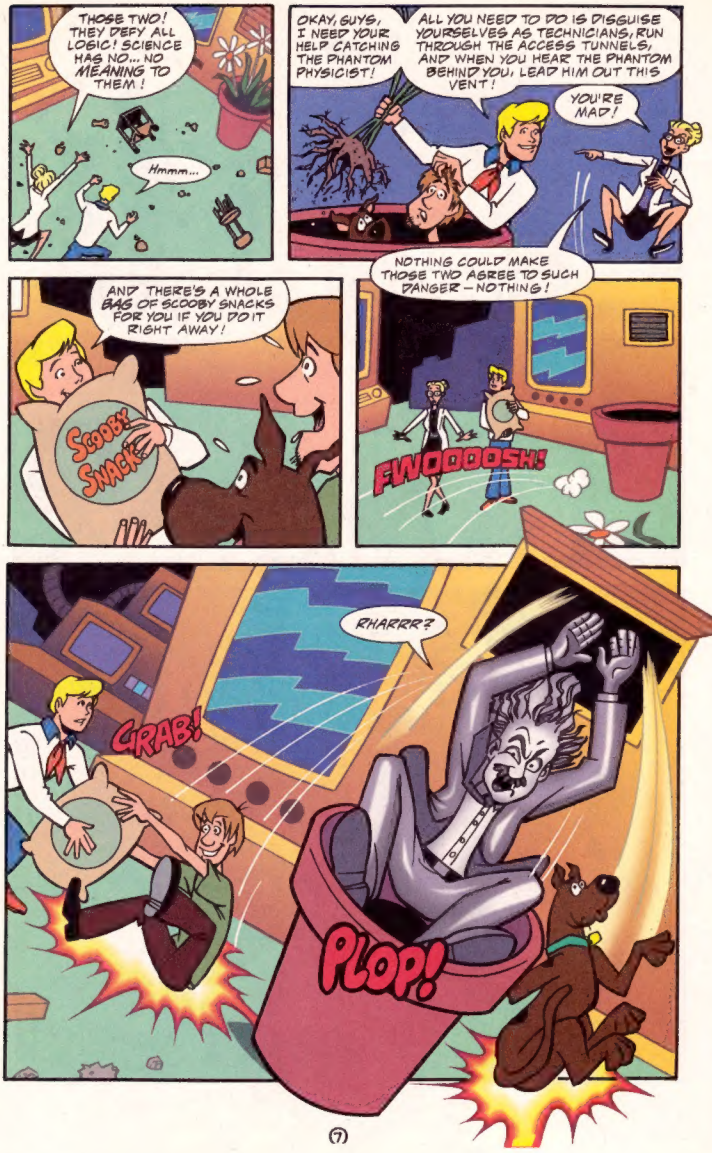
YOU SAY THE PHANTOM LEAVES A FRIGHTENING VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE ON YOUR PHONE EVERY DAY AT 4:30 ?
SORRY, FRED -- CAN'T HEAR YOU.
MUST FINISH BUILDING RESTRAINTS!
SHAG! SHAG!

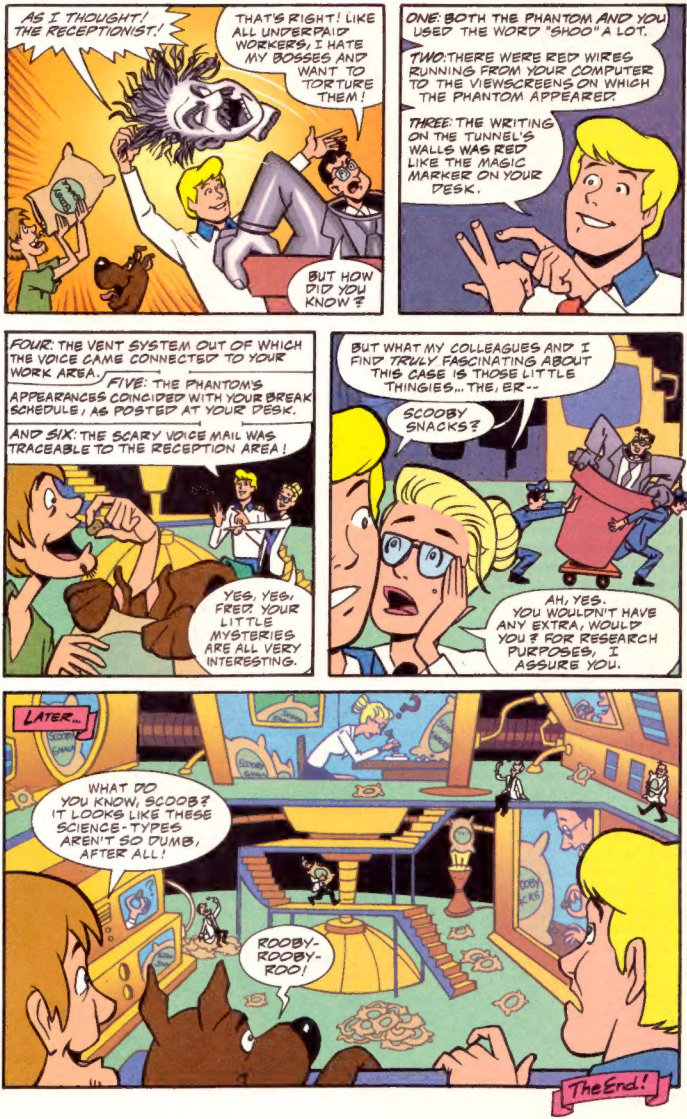
THERE! YOU TWO OBVIOUSLY WON'T RESPOND TO ANY CONVENTIONAL METHODS!
BUT JUST TRY TO RUN AWAY WHEN PHYSICALLY ATTACHED TO THE FLOOR!


HA!
NOW I'LL JUST ACCESS THAT VOICE-MAIL MESSAGE FROM THE PHANTOM...


YAAAA!
WOOOOOOOOOO!
IT'S NO USE! YOU CAN'T MOVE! YOU MUST STAY AND--
KREAK!

--FACE YOUR FEARS.
YAAAAAA!
CRASH!
KLOMP!
SMASH!


THOSE TWO! THEY DEFY ALL LOGIC! SCIENCE HAS NO... NO MEANING TO THEM!
Hmmm...
OKAY, GUYS, I NEED YOUR HELP CATCHING THE PHANTOM PHYSICIST!
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS DISGUISE YOURSELVES AS TECHNICIANS, RUN THROUGH THE ACCESS TUNNELS, AND WHEN YOU HEAR THE PHANTOM BEHIND YOU, LEAD HIM OUT THIS VENT!
YOU'RE MAD!
AND THERE'S A WHOLE BAG OF SCOOBY SNACKS FOR YOU IF YOU DO IT RIGHT AWAY!
SCOOBY SNACK
NOTHING COULD MAKE THOSE TWO AGREE TO SUCH DANGER — NOTHING!
FWOOOOSH!
RHARRR?
GRAB!
PLOP!


AS I THOUGHT! THE RECEPTIONIST!
THAT'S RIGHT! LIKE ALL UNDERPAID WORKERS, I HATE MY BOSSES AND WANT TO TORTURE THEM!
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
ONE: BOTH THE PHANTOM AND YOU USED THE WORD "SHOO" A LOT.
TWO: THERE WERE RED WIRES RUNNING FROM YOUR COMPUTER TO THE VIEWSCREENS ON WHICH THE PHANTOM APPEARED.
THREE: THE WRITING ON THE TUNNEL'S WALLS WAS RED LIKE THE MAGIC MARKER ON YOUR DESK.
FOUR: THE VENT SYSTEM OUT OF WHICH THE VOICE CAME CONNECTED TO YOUR WORK AREA.
FIVE: THE PHANTOM'S APPEARANCES COINCIDED WITH YOUR BREAK SCHEDULE, AS POSTED AT YOUR DESK.
AND SIX: THE SCARY VOICE MAIL WAS TRACEABLE TO THE RECEPTION AREA!
YES, YES, FRED. YOUR LITTLE MYSTERIES ARE ALL VERY INTERESTING.
BUT WHAT MY COLLEAGUES AND I FIND TRULY FASCINATING ABOUT THIS CASE IS THOSE LITTLE THINGIES... THE, ER--
SCOOBY SNACKS?
AH, YES. YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EXTRA, WOULD YOU? FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES, I ASSURE YOU.
LATER...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW, SCOOB? IT LOOKS LIKE THESE SCIENCE-TYPES AREN'T SO DUMB, AFTER ALL!
ROOBY-ROOBY-ROO!
The End!

ISLAM

(IS-lahm) is the name of the second largest religion in the world, practiced by about 950 million people. (Six million of them are in the United States.) Islam was started in the Arabian city of Mecca nearly 1,400 years ago by the **Prophet Muhammad**. Muhammad taught that there is only one God, and that he, Muhammad, was God's messenger. Muhammad told people to *submit* to God; *Islam* is an Arabic word that means "submission." People who practice the Islamic faith are called **Muslims**, from an Arabic word that means "a person who submits (to God)." In the lead story in this issue of *Scooby-Doo*, Arthur Simmons is a **Muslim**.

At the time that Muhammad began preaching, the people in Mecca worshipped many different gods and prayed to idols and spirits. Also, the rich people in Mecca were very cruel to the poor people and caused them a lot of suffering. Muhammad believed he'd received a revelation from God; he began teaching that there is only one God, and that there is equality and brotherhood among all people who submit to God. This was a good message for the poor people, but some of the rich people didn't like it very much. They threatened Muhammad and caused him to flee to the city of Medina, about 200 miles away, where he was welcomed and found many followers. Muhammad's trip to Medina is called the **Hegira** (heh-JI-ruh). It was so important that the Muslim calendar begins with that year (which makes *this* the year **1376**).

Muhammad's revelations and teachings were written down by his followers and collected into the holy book of Islam, called the **Koran** (kuh-RAN). The Koran teaches that God is all-powerful, but also just and merciful. It forbids bad behavior like lying or stealing, but also urges forgiveness. The Koran teaches faith in God, kindness, honesty, courage, and charity to the poor, and says that people should try to be good and help others, and then trust in God's goodness and mercy for their reward.

Almost all Muslims memorize at least some of the Koran, and many people learn the whole book by heart. Muslim kids study hard to memorize the entire Koran, and when they succeed their families throw a big party and give gifts to both the kids and their teachers.

The Islamic faith teaches that Muslims have **five duties**. The first is to believe in the one God and in Muhammad as a prophet. The second is to pray. Muslims pray five times daily — at dawn, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, and at night. On Fridays Muslims attend noon prayer at a **mosque** (mosk) — the building that's their special place of worship. The third duty is to be charitable. Muslims have to give a certain percentage of their money each year to a special fund for the needy — but they can give even more if they want.

Fasting is the fourth duty. Muslims observe an entire month, called **Ramadan**, during which they can't eat anything from dawn to sunset. During this time there are special prayers and recitations from the Koran at night. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims hold a joyful three-day festival to celebrate. **The feast that Arthur Simmons invites Scooby and the gang to share is part of this festival.**

The final duty for Muslims is to make a pilgrimage, or **Hajj**, to the holy city of Mecca at least once in their lifetime. There are many ceremonies required during the Hajj. Completing this important duty is a cause for great rejoicing. So it was very important to Mr. Simmons to make his pilgrimage — **but even more important to find a way to do his duty as a Muslim and still be responsible to all the people in his company who depended on him.**

WHAT'S UP?

By BRONWYN T.

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